



1 June 2007

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Kawainui Marsh Environmental Restoration, Oahu, Hawaii

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject project for Honolulu Advertiser Newspaper.

2. Points of Major Interest and Facts:

a. The Kawainui Marsh Environmental Restoration project is being developed under Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. The purpose of the project is to restore habitat suitable for endangered Hawaiian waterfowl; koloa maoli (duck), ae'o (stilt), 'alae 'ula (moorhen) and 'alae ke'oke'o (coot). The project would be located in the upper portion of the marsh, encompassing approximately 40 acres. Project features include 11 terraced shallow ponds (24 acres), an earthen berm system accessible by maintenance vehicles, water supply system to the ponds (solar-powered well pumps and water level control structures) and predator control fencing.

b. Kawainui Marsh is adjacent and affected by the Kawainui Flood Control Project, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) authorized and constructed facility. The project is in the Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) phase. The local sponsor, State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources has financially committed to the design, through a transfer of funds and execution of the Design Agreement on 18 November 2004. Funds were last provided in the FY06 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act in the amount of \$10,000. Final plans and specifications are scheduled to be submitted in FY07. Once Federal and State funds are provided and a Project Cooperation Agreement is executed, then the project may move into construction. Construction contract award is anticipated for fall 2008, with work to be completed by spring 2010, based on a construction period of 15 months. Twenty five percent of the total project cost will be ultimately cost shared with the sponsor.

c. As part of the PCA requirement, the sponsor secured a land transfer for the project site from the City and County of Honolulu through a sub agreement signed on 7 April 2007. Since construction of the original flood control project in August 1966 and in compliance with the USACE-City agreement, the City had been the responsible agency for the flood control maintenance. While USACE has no preference for ownership of marsh & levee, the sponsor needs to obtain perpetual easement or fee title to the proposed project area for all construction, maintenance and operation. As part of the recently signed sub agreement, lands will be transferred to the State, while the City remains responsible for maintenance of the flood control project. A portion of the transfer includes land proposed for this restoration project, thereby, allowing this ecosystem project to move forward.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Honolulu District



d. Kawainui Marsh is the largest remaining wetland in Hawaii and has been identified in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's *Hawaiian Waterbirds Recovery Plan* as primary habitat for several endemic and endangered birds. It was designated on 2 February 2005 as one of three wetlands in the United States of international importance by the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.